

The Succession of Constantine 53

air way to the desert regions assigned to them, ere to bring back to fertility by their labour as ives the very countryside which in their freedom ey had pillaged and laid waste. He recalled the rniliar sight of these savage barbarians tamed to rprising quiescence, and waiting in the public aces of the -dEduan cities until they were told off their new masters. Gaul had suffered so long >m these roving ruffians from over the Rhine that e orator broke out into a po^an of exultation at e thought that the once dreaded Chamavan or •isian now tilled his estates for him, and that the gabond freebooter had become an agricultural Dourer, who drove his stock to the Gallic markets d cheapened the price of commodities by increasing e sources of supply.

Full allowance must be made for exaggeration, le tribes, which arc described as having been ex-pated, reappear later on in the same numbers as fore, and there was security only so long as the Em-ror and his legions were on the spot. When Con-intius crossed to Britain on the expedition which rminated with his death, the Franks took advantage his absence to " violate the peace/' * The words >uld seem to imply that there had been a treaty tween Constantius and the Kings Ascaricus and sgaisus. They crossed the Rhine and Constantine, e new Caesar, hastened back from Britain to con-Hit them. Where the battle took place is not town, but both Kings were captured and, together th a multitude of their followers, flung to the

* /'</«, vii., 10,